Role of Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission

1689. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have committed to provide drinking water Scheduled Caste habitats;

(b) what is the role of the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission distanced itself from this objective;

(d) the steps proposed to review any change in responsibility;

(e) whether it is a fact that representation made to the RGDWM are not being followed up; and

(f) the reasons for neglect of representations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Rural Water Supply is a State subject: State Governments have been implementing Rural Water Supply Programmes under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). The Central Government supplement the efforts of the State Government by providing central assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The State Governments have been delegated powers to plan and implement individual Water Supply Schemes under ARWSP on the pattern of MNP. However, expenditure is incurred as per the guidelines for implementation of Rural Water Supply Programme, which inter-alia stipulates that 25% and 10% of funds are to be earmarked for providing safe drinking water to SC/ST habitations, respectively. The endeavour is to cover all the SC/ST habitations with drinking water supply on a priority basis.

(e) and (f) The representations received by the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission are forwarded to the concerned State Governments for information and appropriate follow up action through their implementing agencies.

Strategy for making sericulture and agro-based industry

1690. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any long term strategy has been evolved to make sericulture a more vibrant agro-based industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken in the Ninth Five Year Plan in this regard, including steps to double the production of silk so as to boost its export to International markets?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ninth Plan envisages an increase in the production of mulberry raw silk by 6000 tonnes and 540 tonnes of non-mulberry silk research & development, transfer of technology, seed support and assistance to States. Apart from the North East Action Plan and the Poorvanchal Sericulture Project which are continuing from the VIIIth Plan, the Govt. of India has sanctioned implementation of 36 Catalytic Development Schemes during IXth Plan. Besides, the States of Madhya Pradesh and Manipur have undertaken implementation of the Project with financial assistance from Oversease Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan in respect of tasar and mulberry sericulture respectively. The project in Madhya Pradesh envisages development of 4000 hectares of tasar food plants and increased production of 75 tonnes of tasar raw silk per annum after the project period. The project in Manipur aims at increased production of 60 tonnes of mulberry raw silk per annum after the project period. The Govt. of Uttar Pradesh under the Diversified Agricultural Project has envisaged a 750 tonnes per year increase in silk production with World Bank assistance. Besides, the Central Silk Board, has prepared an Integrated Project for Muga and Eri. In addition, under the Fibres and Handicrafts Programme with UNDP assistance development programmes will be implemented in the non-mulberry sector. Various steps have also been taken to promote silk exports such as:—